

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Piscopo Chairs ALEC Task Force on Natural Resources



State Representative John E. Piscopo, R-76th District, who recently was appointed to head the American Legislative Exchange Council's Natural Resources Task Force, chaired the panel's meeting at ALEC's Spring Summit earlier this month in Savannah, Georgia.

"It's an honor to have been selected to chair ALEC's Natural Resources Task Force through 2006," Representative Piscopo said. "As the chairman of this panel, I will be coordinating its efforts to develop legislative initiatives that can be pursued at both the state and federal level which enhance environmental quality and help create jobs - many of which I intend to share with my colleagues on the General Assembly's Environment Committee. Over the years, ALEC's Natural Resources Task Force has developed some of the most innovative and creative responses to major environmental issues affecting our state and our country. Our meeting earlier this month was no exception."

"Some of the matters we discussed included mercury emissions in the air, climate change, and public land management, all of which continue to be important issues in Connecticut," Representative Piscopo said. "As a legislator who believes that the goals of improving the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink and encouraging economic growth and job creation are not incompatible, I have found the ideas we exchange at task force meetings to be invaluable. We listen to people with differing views on any given issue, including representatives from both the private and public sectors. We take a Jeffersonian approach to the development of model legislation that I have used as the basis for bills I have introduced at the Connecticut General Assembly."

Representative Piscopo was chosen as ALEC's 2004 Natural Resources State Legislator of the Year, which led to his appointment as chairman of the Natural Resources Task Force by ALEC National Chairman Earl Ehrhart, a state legislator from Georgia.

ALEC is a nonpartisan association of conservative state lawmakers who share a common belief in limited government, free markets, federalism, and individual liberty. ALEC's Natural Resources Task Force is dedicated to the principle of free market environmentalism. The Task Force pursues policies that take advantage of the positive forces of the free market to enhance the quality of our natural resources for the benefit of human health and environmental integrity.

ALEC's Natural Resources Task Force has developed two policy projects that incorporate the benefits of sound science and innovative technology. The "Energy Sustainability for the 21st Century" policy initiative examines the role fuel supply diversity plays in energy security, climate change regulation, and electricity reliability. The mission of the project is to determine the best free market approach for energy development, production, and distribution to enhance our national economy and independence.

The "Environmental Health Initiative" has been instrumental in demonstrating that sound science based on rigorous peer review will produce more effective public policy that reduces harm to human health and promotes environmental stewardship.

